

## Minutes

of the Meeting of

### North Somerset Local Access Forum

Tuesday 15 July 2025

Castlewood Room G:08, Tickenham Road, Clevedon BS21 6FW

Meeting Commenced: 18:02pm

Meeting Concluded: 20:02pm

#### Councillors:

P Peter Burden

A *Thomas Daw*

A *Helen Thornton*

#### Independent Members:

##### Rights of way and Access Land Users

P Tina Hamilton

A *Jonathan Brownlett*

P Sheila Dixon

P Julie Main (Chairperson)

A *Nikki Barton*

A *Marianne McLeer*

#### Other Interests

P Richard Simmons

A *Richard Jones*

P John Harris

P Councillor James Tonkin  
(Vice Chairperson)

P Robert Parsons

P Roger Trowbridge

#### Officers

A *Elaine Bowman* *Principal Access Officer*

P Andrew Carroll *Access Officer*

P Paul Hayward *Access Officer (PROW team)*

A *Laura Baber* *Assistant Access Officer (PROW team)*

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

#### LAF Welcome and apologies for absence

1 Andy Carroll welcomed attendees and began the meeting with a request for the election of officers for the coming year.

Julie Main and Cllr James Tonkin were re-elected as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Local Access Forum.

#### LAF Public Participation

2

The meeting began with a talk from Helena Craig, Chairperson of Black2nature.

#### LAF Declarations of Interest by Members

3

None declared

**LAF Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2025**

4

James Tonkin noted in Section 5: Diversion orders and associated issues that reference should be to Engine Lane and not Engine Way. JT also noted he could not recall the footpath request in the third paragraph of this section adding that it is a bridleway not a footpath.

Regarding s106 money from Taylor Wimpey, it was noted JT was to put in writing re concerns on using these monies (which will be revisited in Agenda item 8).

**Resolved:** Subject to the above that the minutes of 22 April 2025, be approved as the correct record.

**LAF Access Officer's Reports (verbal report)**

5

**1. Update on Hinkley saltmarsh programme**

The officer presented a verbal report to those present and advised that Natural England have dropped the Saltmarsh proposal. So far as NE are concerned it has gone away.

NE asked NSC about missing Chapter 6 on either side of Poets Bay. NSC have contacted a contractor for a tender for establishment works. NSC told that NE have a meeting with landowners to revisit what was a privately agreed some years ago. In discussions now regarding costings, contracts, tender documents and more details should be available at the next meeting

**2. PROW update**

The officer advised there were 307 reports, 252 resolved and 1176 current outstanding issues. Since 2009 there have been 7783 recorded issues. A query was raised as to whether someone who raised a report could close it down when resolved but the officer advised this was not possible using the current system.

JH enquired if it Parish Clerks often raised queries to which the officer replied not often.

**LAF Secretary's Report (verbal report)**

6

**1. Update on EPIC application in relation to PPO and document shared**

The Access Officer outlined who EPIC were and that they are building a campus site in Long Ashton and where exactly it was going to be. The officer advised there would be additional rights of way planned over the site and many hedgerows are planned to be kept. The officer advised that getting an underpass under the A370 was looked into but they have said no. EPICs plan is to keep the site open and accessible. Footpaths are to be diverted through the site and not around the edges. JM raised a query with Festival Way believing an issue with horses using part of it. The officer thought it was all accessible but will look into it to check.

## **2. Progress of DMMOs**

The officer made the Forum aware of that Access Support Officer Laura Baber was now helping deal with DMMOs. The Principal Access Officer is looking into progress the 40 or so claims with Laura's assistance

## **3. Update on solar farm plans at Congresbury**

The officer advised there has been another application for solar panels to the West of site already known about (south of Congresbury – Langford). He advised the Langford ones for a 40 year licence as opposed to the usual 25 years.

It is thought there will be increased traffic on the Strawberry Line. JT asked if there could be a condition added to resurface/repair the Strawberry Line after the works have been done. The officer advised we are not receiving much money from these works.

## **4. Public notification of new Diversion Orders**

It was not known why this was on the agenda.

## **5. Improved Footpaths**

The officer advised 9 paths have been repaired including the installation of a new composite bridge. The forum were also advised that one bridge on the network had been stolen/moved.

## **6. Membership renewals**

Membership renewal information will soon be circulated

## **7. Country Land Access Group**

The officer advised that the Principal Officer is responding to the CLAG. There are currently 42 DMMOs and 222 blockages on the network. The Principal Officer has recently responded to an FOI on this. The CLA sent FOIs to all local authorities.

## **LAF 7 Chairperson's Report (verbal report)**

### **1. Update on future projects, funding for access**

The Chair advised there were some other accesses for funding including the National Lottery and it was proposed to set up a working group to look into sources of funding.

Resolved JM and TH volunteered to be part of the working group

Cllr Burden discussed social capital – contractors doing certain level of work and companies can buy into certain works. Suggested that rights of way could be on the list of works they can buy into. It was understood the head of procurement (possibly Geoff Chamberlain but the forum were not certain of the name) had raised this a couple of times. There may be issues where works are over a certain amount. It

was suggested that as part of the works on the Banwell Bypass the contractors should be offering some social capital.

**LAF 8 Vice Chairperson's report (verbal report)**

**1. Update on North Somerset Devolution.**

The VC read out the attached devolution briefing report. Summarising that parks, play equipment and open spaces were proposed to be taken on by Parish/Town Councils.

Nailsea did not want to take on car parks due to it costing too much money

Nailsea Town Council have taken on some vegetation cutbacks. They expect to take on more of this. NTC say smaller councils can't afford to do this. NTC believe NSC have extended their contract with Glendale for another year. They are also saying that the transfer of the parcels of land to them is taking a long time and they now think it may take place around April 2027. Cllr Burdon understands costs will increase 40% so not sure of the desire to do this. VC advised that Nailsea and Portishead are keen to progress the devolution.

There was a discussion about parish council orderlies doing this work and concern that they do not have the equipment to do it. BP believes Wick St Lawrence, for example, would struggle to cope. VC believes some of the larger Town Councils may have to take on some work for the smaller parishes.

RS believes there will be difficulties in maintaining these spaces e.g. hedgerows and cycle paths, and it will be costly. It was mentioned that some of this might be a highways responsibility

**Resolved to add the briefing minutes to the meeting minutes.**

**2. Residents request for Town Council support for highway (footpath) changes to accommodate mobility scooters**

. VC prepared to see the resident to discuss. Suggested it may be better to do a survey of the whole of Nailsea.

Resolved VC to implement a survey on this point.

Access Officer queried where the funds would come from for any works. VC thought Parish/Town Councils might be able to assist. Mentioned that previously there was an issue with youngsters on bikes and now issues of older people on disability vehicles having access problems.

**3. Information (update) re Nailsea cycle way**

Engine Lane to the station. Case Officer dealing is Luke Turner. In summary there is a commuted sum of £385k in S106 money with an expenditure date looming. This needs to be actioned.

**Resolved VC to put together some wording to give to the Principal Officer so this matter can be progressed**

Cllr Burdon willing to put this matter to Council. VC will give to Cllr Burdon a report if he produces one.

**LAF 9 Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting**

(1) Horse Riders – the officer advised he could ask Ben Searle to attend a meeting to discuss this matter

(2) Agreed it would be useful to invite Paul Spears, Ramblers, to come to a future meeting.

(3) Agreed it would be useful to invite Parish Councils to LAF meetings. Not necessarily the next one but future meetings.

**Resolved JM to remind Councils of the LAF and invite to future meetings.**

(4) Headcams for horse riders – it was not known why this was on the agenda. Discussion over where digital information is being sent. Some people send to BHS, some to the police. TH advised she sends to both.

**LAF 10 Any other Business**

JM requested that if anyone wants anything on the next agenda please advise.

TH advised of a meeting at Wick St Lawrence Village Hall on 29 July 2025, 5.30-8pm. Discussion on Ebdon Farm land bought by Ebdon Trust and what they are going to do with it. The officer advised there was a works order to do work on the Collum Lane End of the land.

**LAF 11 Dates of future meetings during the 2025-26 Municipal Year**

The officer advised Castlewood may not be available for future meetings but would check. VC advised that Nailsea Tithe Barn might be an option.

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Chairperson

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